ABSTRACT

A cup-dispensing apparatus and system is disclosed that utilizes a front piece that comprises a side-access port into which is reversibly inserted a cup-dispensing insert. This front piece/cup-dispensing insert assembly may be manufactured separately from or integral with other components of a cup-dispensing unit. The cup-dispensing unit comprises a flexible gasket or other cup retaining means that retains the last of a stack of cups in place, against an opposing cup-advancing force developed within the cup-dispensing unit. The use of the side-access port provides for improved performance, maintenance, repair, and aesthetic qualities.